THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 17th May 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker, (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" We will take up questions Nos. 968 and 969 together, because they relate to the same subject."

Short notice questions.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Escort for the French Indian Police.

* 968 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether our State Police escorted the French Police from 'Naluthara' and other French enclaves near Mahe to Mahe with all their arms and ammunitions; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for such escort?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) It is not correct to say that our State Police escorted the French Police from 'Naluthara' and other French enclaves near Mahe to Mahe. At the instance of Government of India to whom a request had been made by the French authorities, the French policemen were permitted to cross Indian Union territory during their withdrawal from the enclave to Mahe. Police bandobust was however provided by our policemen during the passage of the French Police through Indian Union Territory in order to guard against any possible breach of law and order."

* 969 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether this Government had, on a request from French India Government a few days back, agreed to give escort for the safe transit of the French Indian policemen with their arms and ammunition from the enclaves of Mahe through Indian territory?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No request was made by the French Indian Government to this Government for an escort for the safe transit of the French Indian policemen with their arms and ammunition from the enclaves of Mahe through Indian territory. The attention of the Member is invited to the answer given to Short Notice Starred question No. 968 given notice of by Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan, M.L.A."

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SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த போலீஸ் படையானது ஆயுதங்கள் எடுத்துகொண்டு செல்ல அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டதா? இதே போலீஸ்படை இந்தியப் பிரஜைகள் இருவரை சுட்டதுண்டா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I have no information whether it was these particular policemen who participated in the firing incident. I have no information with regard to the arms carried by them."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த போலீஸ்காரர்கள் மாஹிக்கு போவதற்கு முன்பாக, அந்தப் பகுதியில் துப்பாக்கிப் பிரயோகம் நடந்திருக்கிறது. அதிலே இந்தியப் பிரஜைகள் இருவர் இறந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதாவது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that incident was already referred to on the floor of this Assembly with reference to another question. There is no question of their being escorted, as I have already stated."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, அவர்களைப் பாதுகாக்க நம்முடைய போலீசை அனுப்பவில்லை என்பதை நான் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆனால் ஆயுதம்தாங்கிய போலீசை நம் மண் மீது நடந்து செல்வதற்கு அனுமதித்ததன் காரணமென்ன ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, for obvious reasons, they want to retire from territory belonging to them and wanted to retire to Mahe proper. So, we permitted them. There was nothing wrong in that."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister referred to his answer given also on a previous occasion. Whenever this question comes, Government say that adequate security measures have been taken by our Government. But when the testing time comes, it is found wanting as it was proved when the French Police after shooting, escaped through Indian territory with their arms, unchallenged by our Police. Did the Government investigate how their security measures proved ineffective in that case? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, in spite of best efforts, I do admit that these measures fail sometimes at very critical moments. But the suggestion of the hon. Member that the policemen who participated in the firing had already escaped into the French territory conflicts with the suggestion made by the other hon. Members that the very policemen were permitted to pass through Indian territory and go to Mahe."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is there not a mutual agreement or treaty between the Indian Union and Pondicherry French Government with regard to the passage of military personnel and other aids? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No French policeman can cross our territory without permission."

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Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Were these French police allowed to carry loaded arms during transit? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already answered, Sir, that I have no information with regard to the arms carried by them."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The information or suggestions given by one member may be different from that given by another member because they have not got that machinery to ascertain true facts. Because this matter was before this House so many times, will the Government tell us whether they have real information as to what happened with respect to the police who shot down the French subjects in 'Naluthara'? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sorry, I do not have the entire information as regards who actually the policemen were, who participated in this firing."

Malampuzha Irrigation Project.

* 970 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Chief Engineer (P.W.D) has ordered that the Dam work of the Malampuzha Irrigation Project need not be completed this year; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No. But work in the spillway block No. 14 in the main dam arm has been stopped at a level of 350·50 for the duration of the south-west monsoon floods. so as not to subject the earth dam to full water pressure immediately after its formation. This work will be resumed after the south-west monsoon and will be completed within the year."

Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Sir, is it not a fact that the land which would have been submerged when the dam was complete was not leased out and only after the recent suspension of its work, this land was given for cultivation? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It must be so because the land would have been submerged if this had been completed. Naturally when it is decided to be deferred, the land could be leased out."

Alleged lathi charge by police on workers of Tajmahal Beedi Factory, Washermanpet.

* 971 *Q.*—Sri P. JEEVANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether there was any lathi charge by police on 8th May 1954 on workers and gosha women of Tajmahal Beedi Factory at Washermanpet?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir.